

JUL 19 2006

Atty. Docket No.: CQ10184  
PATENT APPLICATIONAMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 09/788,603**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13-20, 22 and 23 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 are being amended. No new matter is introduced. Applicants added new claims 24 and 25 to more fully recite the invented subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 11, 13-20, 22 and 23 as being allegedly unpatentable over Oran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,526) in view of Tavori (U.S. patent No. 5,724,025). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of Applicants' amendments to independent claims 1 and 11 and further in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, the amended claims 1 and 11 generally recite a feature of the invention, wherein varying representation elements are used to inform the user of the changes in the at least one activity stream depending on the user's focus of attention. This feature of the invention is not taught or even suggested in Oran et al., Tavori or any combination thereof.

In more detail, Oran et al. discloses a system having a single visual notification area (shown at the bottom right hand corner of the computer display), which displays various visual notifications to a user, see Oran et al., Abstract and Figs. 3, 4 and 6. The visual notifications may notify a user of events, status information, or other information. Oran et al. notifies the user of events by displaying an appropriate icon in the aforesaid visual notification area.

At col. 1, ln. 30-31, Oran et al. teaches "providing a [fixed] system-wide visual notification area." Oran et al. further describes a "taskbar notification area at a predefined location on a user interface wherein icons may be displayed to inform a user of status

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information and events," see Oran et al., col. 2, ln. 45-49. As the Examiner would appreciate, the system of Oran et al. always displays the same notification icons in the same area of the display to the user, irrespective of the user's focus of attention. In other words, in Oran et al., each type of event is represented by the same notification icon, which is displayed in a specific fixed area of the screen, without any regard to the user's current focus of attention. Therefore, Oran et al. fails to teach or suggest using varying representation elements to inform the user of the changes in the at least one activity stream depending on the user's focus of attention, as recited in claims 1 and 11.

The second reference cited by the Examiner, Tavori, discloses a system for monitoring vital signs of a live body, which includes an inquiring device and a monitoring device, see Tavori, Abstract. Applicants' examination of Tavori revealed that Tavori does not deal with user interfaces. Specifically, Tavori does not mention the claimed varying representation elements and also does not teach or suggest determining the user's focus of attention. Therefore, Tavori does not teach or suggest the claimed feature of the invention recited in the amended claims 1 and 11, wherein varying representation elements are used to inform the user of the changes in the at least one activity stream depending on the user's focus of attention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, for the above-stated reasons, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the combination of Oran et al. and Tavori, suggested by the Examiner.

An addition, Applicants respectfully submit that because in Oran et al. the same icons are displayed in the same area of the user interface without regard to the user's focus of attention,

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Oran et al. fails to teach or suggest selecting at least one of the at least one representation elements based on the user's focus of attention, as recited in claims 1 and 11. The second reference, Tavori does not remedy this deficiency of Oran et al. Thus, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Oran et al., Tavori, and any combination thereof, for this additional reason as well.

With respect to the rejection of claims 3, 13-20, 22 and 23, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the references used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims is rendered moot by the present amendment of the parent claims 1 and 11 and that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon the patentable claims 1 and 11.

Likewise, the newly added claims 24 and 25 are patentable at least by definition, due to their dependence upon the patentable claims 1 and 11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Pavel Pogodin  
Registration No. 48,205

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (650) 625-8100  
Facsimile: (650) 625-8110

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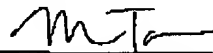
**23493**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 19, 2006

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I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 19th day of July, 2006.

  
Mariann Tam